

WHY THEN AND WHERE BE

JUDGES 6:13

Text: Judges 6:13

(Judg 6:13) "And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

Introduction:

Often times we find ourselves asking the same question Gideon ask WHY.

Look at the state of the economy and you can ask WHY?

Look at the state of your own finances and you can become discouraged and wonder WHY.

Look at world events that transpired September 11, 2001, and the crisis we find ourselves in fighting terrorist and you can ask WHY?

Look at the behavior of most unbelievers and one could say WHY.

Look at the behavior of many believers and you can WHY.

May we learn from the life of Gideon

Judges 6:1-6

The Midianites were nomads who dwelled in the dessert. At the time of Harvest, they would show up and steal what was in the land.

Judges 6:11-13

In the midst of this problem, an Angel of the Lord appears to Gideon. Gideon is called a "man of valor" by the Angel of the Lord and told him that the Lord was with him. Gideon asked two questions that showed his discouragement.

"Why us?"

"Where's God?"

We often ask the same two questions.

In the case of Gideon, God took him from being defeated to being victorious.

How?

1. ACKNOWLEDGE THE REASON FOR THE QUESTION

A. An Unpleasant Condition

This is the most obvious. Gideon and the children of Israel were discouraged by the unpleasant conditions that they needed to face.

Life is full of unpleasant conditions. (You can share your own list.)

B. An Uncommitted Burden

All too often we try to handle our own problems instead of giving them to the Lord.

(1 Pet 5:7) "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

(Psa 37:5) "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

(Psa 81:10) "I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it."

(Phil 4:6-7) "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. {7} And the peace

of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

C. An Unconfessed/ Unforsaken Sin

Many times we will blame other things or people for our problems, when in reality, the problem is ourselves! It is very easy to say, "I'm discouraged by the sins of other Christians" when in reality we are discouraged by our own sins.

This was Israel's problem in Judges 6. They had failed God. They were worshipping false Gods. Therefore they were under God's hand of discipline so that they would confess and forsake their sins and return to Him.

(Prov 3:12-13) "For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. {13} Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."

(Isa 55:6-7) "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: {7} Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

2. ADJUST YOUR VISION

- All too often people are looking in the wrong places for solutions to their problems.
- Some look to circumstances and wish for them to get better.
- Some look to others and depend on them to solve the problems.
- Some look to themselves as the solution to their problems.
- Our vision needs to be adjusted so that we look to God as the solution of our problems.

In Judges 6:6, the Children of Israel did the right thing when they cried to God for help.

(Judg 6:6) "And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD."

When Gideon started looking to the Lord there was victory.

Two interesting things about the call of Gideon:

A. God says, "Go... I have sent thee" (vs.14)

B. God says "I am with thee" in verse (vs. 16)

3. ALIGN YOURSELF PUBLICLY WITH GOD

Judges 6:33-35 - Notice that God's Spirit came upon Gideon and he was not the same.

- He rallied the people around God.
- He publicly took his stand for the Lord.

(Psa 34:1-4) "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. {2} My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. {3} O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. {4} I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

4. ALLOW GOD TO WORK THROUGH YOU

You will lose your discouragement, when you realize that God desires to work through you.

(1 Sam 14:6) "And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few."

- God saw the potential Gideon had and He sees our potential. All we have to do is allow God to work through us.
- God reduced Gideon's initial fighting force to 300 in Judges 7.

5. ASCRIBE ALL GLORY TO GOD

When God delivers you give Him the credit.

(Psa 98:1) "O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory."

(Psa 29:2) "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

When God gives the victory make sure that He is praised and thanked!

A sad aftermath to Gideon's victory was the failure of Israel to remember that God gave them the victory and to thank Him.

(Judg 8:34) "And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side:"